(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how this sector is going to benefited by the proposed US move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) India is the largest cutting and polishing centre in the world. India's share in world net imports of cut & polished diamond is approximately 60% in terms of value, 85% in terms of volume, 92% in terms of pieces. It employs a workforce of nearly one million. The Indian diamond industry uses advanced technology. Around 35% of our total exports of cut & polished diamonds are exported directly to USA. Roughly 11 out of 12 diamonds set in Jewellery worldwide are cut & polished in India.

(b) No, sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Agenda for Ministerial Meet of WTO

22. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the agenda for the forthcoming Ministerial meet of WTO;

(b). the issues which require detailed deliberations;

(c) India's stand on these issues; and

(d) how the country has prepared itself to help arrive at a consensus on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE); (a) and (b)The agenda for the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO, scheduled to be held in Cancun (Mexico) during 10-14 September 2003, has not yet been circulated. However, in terms of the decision of the Ministers at Doha, as contained the Doha Ministerial Declaration the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference will take stock of progress in the negotiations under the work programme adopted at Doha; provide any necessary political guidance; and take decisions as necessary.

(c) and (d) India has been actively participating in the negotiations on various issues included in the Doha Work Programme. India has

consistently taken the stand during these negotiations that the development dimension of the Work Programme should be maintained and should not be diluted at any cost.

Agriculture sector provides livelihood for the large majority of the people in India and negotiations in agriculture should result in tangible improvement in the living conditions of low-income and resource poor farmers and landless agricultural labourers. This cannot be achieved unless there is significant and meaningful reduction in domestic support and all forms of export subsidies in major developed countries. Further more, concerns relating to food security and livelihood of farmers should be addressed through effective protection at the border for their produce and sufficient flexibility to apply safeguards to address different situations.

In respect of non-agricultural products, India has strongly advocated increased market access for products of export interest to India including products such as textiles and leather goods. India has also stressed the need for providing for 'less than full reciprocity' in the matter of reduction commitments by developing countries. Expressing positive interest in the services' negotiations, India has asked for greater and effective liberalization in the movement of natural persons under Mode 4.

On the so-called Singapore issues, namely Trade and Investment; Trade and Competition Policy; Transparency in Government Procurement; and Trade Facilitation, views of the Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are still divergent on many of the key aspects being discussed. Greater clarity would be required before any decision on modalities could be considered.

India has been taking steps at bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral levels, both with developed and developing country partners, aimed at resolution of issues of particular interest to developing countries such as TRIPS and Public Health; Special and Differential Treatment; and Implementation-related issues, on a priority basis so as to have a successful outcome at the Cancun Ministerial Conference.